Memoir

OF

BRO. FRANCIS COOPER,

Phœnix Lodge, No. 130.

A. Y. M.

MEMOIR

OF

BRO. FRANCIS COOPER.

FRANCIS COOPER was born in the City of Philadelphia, August 12, 1789. His parents formed a part of that great middle class, who in this country, earn their bread by the sweat of their brow; and at an early age, whilst yet almost in childhood, he commenced the serious duties of life, by seeking employment in the tobacco warehouse of the late Mr. Nassau, in order to aid his mother in the support of herself and family; his father having been carried off by British capturers, so common at the close of the last century.

The business he thus began at the age of nine years, he continued resolutely to pursue, until by patient perseverance and the exercise of that indomitable will, which formed a leading feature in his character, he raised himself from the humble and subordinate position which he first assumed, to be the principal of a large and successful mercantile establishment.

He was one of those whose well poised minds enable them to educate themselves, and who in all the varied and practical pursuits of life, vindicate the nobility of their nature by becoming the leaders and exemplars in all wise and beneficent works.

The years, as they cast their shadows on his brow, matured his judgment, and instead of abating, gave renewed vitality to to his enterprise and industry; whilst the moral and mental elements predominant in his character were of so marked and

PENNSYLVANIA

elevated a cast, as to greatly widen the sphere of his influence and enhance the wisdom of his counsel.

In his early manhood, with all the enjoyments of life opening before him, he did not forget the duty which he owed his country in her hour of peril, but volunteered with other patriotic citizens to defend her rights in the field with his ablest efforts, and if necessary, by the sacrifice of his life.

He continued for many years in mercantile pursuits, in which he was measurably successful, and on the establishment of the Mechanics Fire Insurance Company, he became its President, this position he held during the remainder of his life, which peacefully terminated July 31, 1870.

He was married at an early period to a lady of moral and intellectual culture, with whom he lived for many years in great domestic happiness, and by whom he had several children—who survive him.

In the midst of these, the evening of his life passed calmly and contentedly away; and surrounded by loving kindred and friends, who with tender care and solicitude, watched over him as his step faltered and his eye grew dim, the aged patriarch having passed the utmost verge of time allotted to man, laid quietly down to die.

> "Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him,
> And lies down to pleasant dreams."

He was made a Mason and became a member of Phœnix Lodge, No 130, on the twenty-first of April, 1813. During the vigor of his early manhood, and the more mature and thoughtful period of middle life, he was an ardent and devoted member of the Order, not only a perfect master of its practical workings, but thoroughly imbued with its spirit, comprehending its catholic mission, and developing in his life and conversation the principles which it inculcates, and the virtues which it teaches.

19391